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Gudrun E. Buckett, Patent Agent

Applicant: Peter Nagler
Serial No: 10/709,614
Filed: 5/18/2004
Title: Device for Automated Manipulation of Articles
Examiner: Joseph E. Valenza
Art Unit: 3651

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

In response to the office action dated 1/18/2005, please amend the instant application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the attached amended paragraphs 0018, 0022, 0026 of the specification for the corresponding paragraphs on file.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as shown in the attached marked-up complete list of claims.

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4/18/05: Amd for Ser. No. 10/709,614 - Inventor(s): Peter Nagler - Filing Date: 5/18/2004

REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPH 0018

[0018] Fig. [5a] 5 is a side view of the belt according to Fig. 4

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REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPH 0022

[0022] In the illustrated embodiment, ~~the surface~~ the working surface 2 is comprised of longitudinal elements 7 with longitudinal gaps 17 provided between neighboring longitudinal elements 7. The working surface 2 can thus have the shape of a grid or the like, preferably, the working surface is formed by a strap belt as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 7. The strap belt is comprised of individual straps 8 that form the longitudinal elements 7 and are commonly driven in the transport direction 9. The articles 3 are transported to the working area 1 by means of the strap belt 8 comprised of several straps 8.

REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPH 0026

[0026] In order to secure the article 3 within the gripping device 6, the acceleration forces generated when moving the gripping device to the target location are used in combination with the force of gravity. The movement path of the gripping device 6 is predetermined such that the acceleration forces that are generated in combination with the force of gravity ensure a safe fixation of the article in the U-shaped receptacle of the gripping device 6. In order to be able to utilize also decelerations without losing the article, it can be advantageous to slightly pivot the gripping device 6 about the pivot axis 16 so that the contact surface 14 of the gripping fingers 13 is slightly upwardly angled relative to the movement direction. Occurring deceleration forces can ~~then counteracted~~ then be counteracted by such a slanted position.